

# The American Center

a program of the Public Affairs Section, U.S. Embassy - Hanoi

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<http://vietnam.usembassy.gov>

## Newsletter

DECEMBER 2009



*Happy New Year!*

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### UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE AMERICAN CENTER

- Jan. 8: Film Show- Just Like Heaven*
- Jan. 14: English Conversation (3rd session)*
- Jan. 15: Film Show- Glory*
- Jan. 16: American English Club- Martin Luther King*
- Jan. 21: English Conversation (4th session)*
- Jan. 23: American English Club - English Speaking Skills*
- Jan. 30: Book Discussion*

*<http://vietnam.usembassy.gov/program.html>  
Please register at <http://creator.zoho.com/pashanoi/form/10>*

## EMBASSY WEB HIGHLIGHTS

### Environmental Health and Remediation Memorandum of Understanding Signed



On December 16, 2009, the United States Government and Vietnam's Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment (MONRE) signed a memorandum of understanding that lays the framework for implementing environmental health and remediation programs. Specifically, the (MOU) outlines the coordination framework between the implementing agencies -- MONRE's Office of National Steering Committee 33 and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). "The purpose of this MOU is to es-

tablish the framework for the cooperation between the Government of Vietnam and the United States to implement health and environment remediation activities relating to Agent Orange/Dioxin," said Dr. Lai Minh Hien, Director of Office 33. According to the United States Ambassador to Vietnam, Michael Michalak, "this MOU marks an important milestone and a new level of commitment in working together to find new and innovative solutions to a complex problem."

### Discover the Roots of American Music



On December 18, Professional Vocalist Viva Vinson, presented "Discover the Roots of American Music" at the American Center in Hanoi. Approximately 50 participants learned about the history of African American influenced music beginning with Negro Spirituals moving on to Blues, Jazz and finally the Great American Songbook. Attendees increased their knowledge of these uniquely American art forms by listening to music clips and through Ms. Vinson's

explanation of the musical evolution that took place and continues to occur in the United States and around the world.

More web highlights please visit <http://vietnam.usembassy.gov/highlights.html>

### PHOTO CORNER:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/achanoi>



Discover the Roots of American Music (Dec. 18)



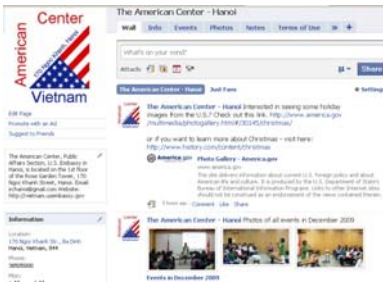
American English Conversation Group (Dec. 17)



English Pronunciation Workshop II (Dec. 14)

## USEFUL WEB SITES

**The American Center Facebook page:** <http://www.facebook.com/achanoi.usembassy>



Join us - now more than 700 fans! Visit our Facebook page and become a fan to get the most updated information about coming events at The American Center. See your photos in our Photo Galleries, share your ideas about our products and services, and to watch videos about the U.S.

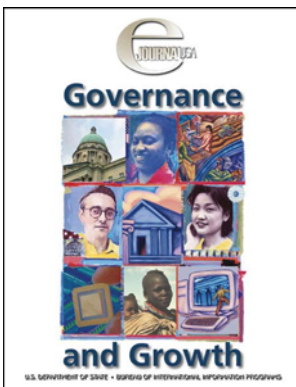
**Today's Web Picks:** <http://www.america.gov/publications/article-alert.html>



Today's Web Picks (formerly Article Alert) is a free aggregation and digest service that links readers to interesting and informative periodical literature (magazine and other journal articles) on a variety of topics including American Life, Economy, Global Challenges, International Relations, and Climate Change. We also offer Top Ten Lists and Other Cool Stuff. We hyperlink to the original texts and supply a short "teaser." There's a lot of great reading on the web and not enough time to find it all. We can help!

## NEW ELECTRONIC JOURNALS

### Governance and Growth



"Governance and Growth," explores the reality behind President Obama's statement to Ghana's parliament earlier this year: "Development depends on good governance." The link between stable, honest government and economic prosperity is being recognized increasingly around the globe by governments, private sector leaders, and entrepreneurs. Voices from all these quarters are heard in this edition of eJournal USA. National leaders and local leaders explain their views of good governance. Experts in the fields of business and development assistance explain how good governance has become critical to building prosperity.

<http://www.america.gov/publications/ejournalusa/1209.html>

## TALKING NUMBERS

### U.S. Embassy Websites

<http://vietnam.usembassy.gov>

From November 19 to December 23:  
134,417 page views and 43,711 visits.

<http://vietnamese.vietnam.usembassy.gov/>

From November 19 to December 23:  
159,795 page views and 46,130 visits.

### Visitors to the American Center

From mid-November 2009 to mid December the American Center welcomed **2,402** visitors.

### The American Center Facebook Fans: 726 fans

### Top Watched Movies at the American Center

1. *Twilight*; 2. *It's a Wonderful Life*; 3. *High School Musical 3*; 4. *White Christmas*; 5. *Just Like Heaven*

## IN YOUR WORDS

Dear Ms Binh and other staff members of AC,

Thank you very much for organizing such a great show for my students. They all feel happy about the event and hope to have more chance to visit and learn in the AC. Many have suggested to come to the activities of AC and to mix with other public members to AC. For myself, I would like to express my gratitude to AC to host such an event for my students. Next semester we are going to learn The Study of American Literature. I hope that we can organize practical learning activities like this, so that the course will be more lively and attractive for the students. Thank you again with best wishes! From Ms. Nguyen Thu Huong (Foreign Trade University)

## NEW ARRIVALS AT THE AMERICAN CENTER

New arrivals! Hundreds of titles have arrived and will be added to our collection. Please visit <http://tinyurl.com/achanoi> to search by topics, titles or authors you are interested in.

## BOOK CLUB

On December 26, 20 positive thinkers joined the American Center's Book Discussion to talk about Norman Vincent Peale's "The Power of Positive Thinking". It was a fun conversation and everyone learned a lot. Next we will be reading "American Ways: A Guide for Foreigners in the United States" by Gary Althen. Just register on-line at <http://www.creator.zoho.com/pashanoi/form/10> and come in to pick up your assigned chapter(s) so you can be prepared for a great conversation.

## AMERICAN CENTER INTERNET LINKS

Search the American Center's collections online: <http://tinyurl.com/achanoi>

Register to become a member: <http://creator.zoho.com/pashanoi/form/14>

Register for free public events: <http://creator.zoho.com/pashanoi/form/10>

Register to receive our Reference Update Service: <http://creator.zoho.com/pashanoi/form/56>

*(We only provide Reference Update Service to Vietnamese officials, teachers, and researchers)*

*Help us serve you better! If you register for a program, please attend. If you cannot attend contact us to cancel your registration at <http://creator.zoho.com/pashanoi/form/1/>*